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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/884,048      | 06/20/2001  | Francois Cunchon     | T2147-907310        | 2706             |

181 7590 11/24/2004  
MILES & STOCKBRIDGE PC  
1751 PINNACLE DRIVE  
SUITE 500  
MCLEAN, VA 22102-3833

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THAN VINH

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2187

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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| APPLICATION NO./<br>CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR /<br>PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER |
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20041119

DATE MAILED:

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner for Patents**

Than Nguyen  
Examiner  
Art Unit: 2187

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/884,048

Applicant(s)

CUNCHON ET AL.

Examiner

Than Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/15/04 has been entered.
2. The amendment, filed 4/16/04, has been entered.
3. Claims 9-20 are pending.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 9-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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6. Claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alexander (US 6,393,559).

**As to claim 9:**

Alexander teaches a self-healing BIO initialization code. Alexander teaches the claimed computing machine comprising a RAM (RAM; 1/15) and a mass memory (hard disk 1/33) in which an operating system is stored, characterized in that the mass memory comprises a partition that is read-only accessible to the operating system (1/20-25), said partition containing a startup function (startup/boot up; 1/9-15), wherein for every startup of the computing machine, the startup function calls the automatic repair function (POST; 1/15-20), the automatic repair function calls the mounting function and, if an error is detected during the mounting function, the automatic repair function automatically calls the startup function (reboots if encounter error during initialization; 1/40-63).

**As to claim 10:**

Alexander teaches the startup function comprises a first code sequence for loading the contents of the partition into RAM (load BIOS; 1/20-25) and a second code sequence for activating in RAM said automatic repair function (POST; 1/26-39)

**As to claim 11:**

Alexander teaches a third code sequence that calls said mounting function, executable in RAM with write capability in at least one other partition of the mass memory (POST; 1/15-20,33-35).

**As to claim 12,13:**

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Alexander teaches a fourth code sequence for acknowledging an error indicated by said mounting function and a fifth code sequence for restarting the machine after the acknowledgment of the error (after error detected, reboot; 1/44-56).

**As to claim 14:**

Alexander teaches the mass memory is a hard disk (hard disk; 1/32).

**As to claim 15:**

Alexander teaches a switch for resetting the RAM and restarting the machine (reset/reboot/startup switch, 1/9).

**As to claim 16:**

Alexander teaches a method for automatically starting a computing machine comprising a RAM and a mass memory, characterized in that it comprises:

a step that starts the machine by means of a signal (startup/reset/reboot signal; 1/9);

a step that automatically loads into RAM the contents of a partition of the mass memory (load BIOS; 1/12-15);

a step that automatically mounts an operating system from the RAM that includes the repair function based on a call from the automatic repair function (mount operating system; 1/30-37);

a step that automatically acknowledges any error indicated in the third step and that reactivates the second step (detect error and reboot; 1/40-56).

**As to claim 17:**

Alexander teaches a step that creates partitions in the mass memory (1/30-33); storing at least part of the operating system and functions for executing a startup, the

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automatic repair function is capable of calling a mounting function and an acknowledgment function in the first partition, which is to be read-only accessible to said operating system (storing BIOS; 1/20-30).

**As to claim 18:**

Alexander teaches the automatic repair function acknowledges error(s) detected during the mounting of the operating system (1/40-46).

**As to claim 19:**

Alexander teaches calling a standard acknowledgement function to repair the error (1/40-63).

**As to claim 20:**

Alexander teaches an instruction sequence to call the mounting function (call POST; 1/15,34); an instruction sequence that can call a standard acknowledgement function (acknowledge error; 1/44); and an instruction sequence that is capable of calling the startup function upon return of the acknowledgement (reboot; 1/44).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4198. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-3pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571)272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Than Nguyen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Than Nguyen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2187